

1797

For the Clergy, Heads of Families, and Students.

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A New Edition (with considerable Additions) of

MEDICAL EXTRACTS,

ON THE

NATURE OF HEALTH,

AND

THE LAWS

OF THE

NERVOUS AND FIBROUS SYSTEMS;

WITH

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS:

BY

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BOTANY AT GUY'S HOSPITAL; AND AUTHOR OF
A NEW ILLUSTRATION OF THE SEXUAL
SYSTEM OF LINNÆUS*.

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Printed for J. JOHNSON, St. Paul's Church-yard; and
ROBINSONS, Paternoster-Row :

And sold by them, and RICHARDSON, Cornhill; DILLY in the Poultry;
Messrs. WHITE, and Messrs. MURRAY and HIGHLEY, Fleet-street;
BESLEY, Lisle-street; EDWARDS, and BECKET, and
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SANCTIONS.

As authors in general “do not hide their candle under a measure,” I have followed the example with some hesitation; but confess, while I bring forward commendations of my work, my own weakness is extreme: for the more I pry into the ways of the CREATOR, the more I am humbled, and the less of vanity, truly, I possess. I hope the candid reader will not then impute any ostentatious motive to my producing such respectable testimony. If he be thereby led to purchase this work, I beg leave to solicit him “to judge “for himself.” *Magna est veritatis potentia, et prevalebit.*

I. THUS have we given a brief analysis of the MEDICAL EXTRACTS, which will be found of the highest use to all those, who are desirous of preserving, or regaining, the invaluable blessing of health. It is the best work on the subject in any language; it is the production of a mind, learned, comprehensive, candid, open to, and desirous of, information; cautious in investigation, yet resolute to embrace the truth; a friend to mankind, ardent in his hopes, as in his efforts, for increasing the stores of knowledge; and particularly interested in the general adoption, and success, of *pneumatic medicine*; of the advantages of which the author (for he has drawn from the facts of others his own conclusions, and incorporated his own observations) entertains almost unbounded expectations, shewing evidently that temperament which usually accompanies genius.

English Review.

2. The design of the Author of MEDICAL EXTRACTS is well, and so justly, explained in the Apology prefixed to the work, that we cannot do better than to give the writer's own words.

Apol. p. 1. " The Author of MEDICAL EXTRACTS at first proposed to have presented to the public a concise view of the relation we stand in with regard to the air we breathe; and as the *pneumatic chemistry* had been successfully introduced into the *practice of physic*, this volume was to have been succeeded by PATHOLOGICAL EXTRACTS relative to the exhibition of different airs; but the progress of this new improvement in medicine has been so slow, from the opposition which naturally awaits every great undertaking, that although the infant scion soon blossomed, and bore fruit, yet was the product scanty, and the tedious interval was therefore filled up, in giving the relations we stand in with respect to Heat, Light, Food, Exercise, &c. and lastly, the objects which excite the Mind through the medium of the senses." Thus, amid numerous avocations, he has attempted to explain, more extensively than has hitherto been done, the system first established by the late Dr. BROWN, as far as regards health, upon which the *pneumatic practice* is engrafted, " a system not to be considered

“ as complete, but as a foundation and a scaffold-
“ ing, which will enable future industry to erect
“ a solid and beautiful edifice, eminent both for
“ its simplicity and utility, as well as the per-
“ manency of its materials — which may not
“ moulder, like the structures already erected,
“ into the sand of which they were composed:
“ but which may stand unimpaired, like the New-
“ tonian philosophy, a rock amid the waste of
“ ages !”

Since the introduction of every new branch of science (viz. the application of factitious air to the frame, called the *Pneumatic Practice*) is much assisted by a clear and explicit elucidation of the particular grounds and circumstances that have led to its application, in this point of view the MEDICAL EXTRACTS will be found extremely useful and important. The ingenious author has here traced with equal brevity and clearness the different *chemical discoveries* which bear any relation to the institution of *pneumatic practice*: and collected, with much attention and industry, *the most useful labours* of the *most enlightened* of the faculty, which, by the assistance of notes, alterations in the text, and a methodical arrangement, he has formed into an excellent body of medical instruction of the highest utility and importance, capable of being easily understood by every one.

The introductory view which is taken of the progress of chemical science commences with that extraordinary man PARACELsus, and is carried down to the present period.—In considering this subject the writer has decided on the importance and utility of the different discoveries which are described, with much judgment, penetration, and accuracy. The general as well as the medical reader must be highly gratified with the full detail of improvements here presented to him.—After this, the doctrines of attraction and the effects of heat are explained; from which the writer proceeds to the mechanical and chemical properties of air, on each of which many very interesting and applicable extracts, and conclusions, are introduced.—The process of putrefaction is described with much neatness, perspicuity, and precision.—The view which follows of the animal economy is of the popular kind, and extremely well arranged. Without the clumsy aid of the technical phraseology of the anatomist, the author has presented the reader with a perfectly clear and intelligible account of the nature and functions of the different parts of the human fabric.—Turning from this subject, the author now enters into the principal object of the work, and considers the relation we stand in with respect to the external Air. Here the philosophical reader will

will find, that the writer has judiciously selected a stock of materials, from the more recent chemical and physiological observations and discoveries.

In VOL. II. we have a full explanation of the other relations we stand in, such as Heat, Light, Exercise, Clothing, &c. The practical remarks on Food, Dress, Exercise, Sleep, &c. are extremely pertinent and interesting.

In VOL. III. after inquiring into the nature of the irritable and sentient principles, and the relation that *oxygen* bears to them, the author proceeds in his developement of the laws of excitement. Much useful matter is also here collected from various sources; and presented in a somewhat new point of view to the reader. In the conclusion of the volume, the subjects of suffocation, drowning, and other asphyxias, are pretty fully discussed, and many judicious extracts given from the latest and best writers.

VOL. IV. is introduced with these modest expressions. “ It is much to be regretted that this
“ great genius (Dr. BROWN) did not live to
“ complete his system according to the plan he
“ had projected. To supply this want, I have
“ assumed the pen, yet with timid steps I ven-
“ ture to tread the path he has marked out. I
“ follow *haud passibus æquis.*”

On

On the brain and nervous system the author has presented his readers with a considerable portion of interesting matter.

In short, the author of MEDICAL EXTRACTS has presented us with a work, which cannot but render considerable advantage both to the *medical* and *general* inquirer. In making his selection he has displayed sound judgment, and great attention to utility; the materials are neatly arranged, and even sometimes adorned with uncommon elegance of language.

Analytical Review.

3. IT has lately been observed, as a general law, that every thing that increases the quantity of *oxygen* in organized bodies, increases at the same time their irritability. On this subject the writings of Dr. Darwin, Dr. Beddoes, and the Rev. Mr. Townsend, together with MEDICAL EXTRACTS, by a Friend to Improvements, may be consulted with advantage.

From Dr. Walker, Member of the Royal College of Physicians, and Physician to the City Dispensary, "On Nervous Diseases."

4. DR. BEDDOES' Considerations on the Medicinal Powers of Factitious Airs, Mr. Townsend's Guide to Health, Dr. Trotter on Scurvy, with the MEDICAL EXTRACTS, contain many facts, proving not only advantage to have been derived from respiring different factitious airs, but that
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the most permanent and extensive benefits have also been obtained by diet, and medicines, exhibited by the stomach upon the new principles of chemistry.

From Dr. Rollo, Surgeon-General, in his "Account of two Cases of Diabetes."

5. The bites of venomous animals are only to be effectually cured by scarifications, compresses, or the knife. But when *pneumatic chemistry* shall have made a progress in the world, and philosophic practitioners shall have explained, how poisons produce their wonderful effects by *disoxygenating the blood*, as is attempted by the judicious author of MEDICAL EXTRACTS, we may then expect to cure even without the assistance of the surgeon.

From the Rev. Joseph Townsend's "Guide to Health."

6. THERE is a late publication, called MEDICAL EXTRACTS, a work which would do credit to the knowledge of the first medical man in England, but to which the ingenious author, with a singular share of self-diffidence, has not affixed his name.

From William Cruikshank, M. D. Lecturer on Anatomy, Surgery, and Physiology, "On the Insensible Perspiration."

7. The MEDICAL EXTRACTS are strongly recommended to the pupils each course of lectures

By Dr. Pegg, Professor, and Reader on Anatomy, at Oxford.